

**MEMORABILIA WORKING GROUP  
SOMME RESOLUTION**

**MONDAY 10 MAY 2010**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillor Hendron      Chairman  
 Councillor McCausland  
 Councillor Jones  
 Councillor McCarthy  
 Councillor C. Maskey  
 Councillor Rodgers  
 Hazel Francey      Good Relations Manager  
 Anne Deighan      Good Relations Officer  
 Marie Craig      Good Relations Assistant (minutes)

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor Kyle      PUP

<b>1.0</b>	<b>BACKGROUND</b>
1.1	Hazel reminded Members that at its meeting on 23 April 2010, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee had deferred consideration of a report on the proposed revised text of the Somme resolution to enable the Party leaders (or their nominees) and the Chairman of the Good Relations Partnership to consider the matter further.
1.2	<p>She distributed a copy of the report considered at that Strategic Policy &amp; Resources Committee meeting and also a proposed text tabled by Councillor Crozier. The <b>current resolution</b> is:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">That we, the Lord Mayor and Citizens of the City of Belfast, on the &gt;th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, desire again to record our feelings of gratitude to the brave men of the 36<sup>th</sup> (Ulster) Division who, by their glorious conduct in that battle, made an imperishable name for themselves and their Province, and whose heroism will never be forgotten so long as the British Commonwealth lasts.</p> <p><b>Councillor Crozier’s proposed text</b> was based on the principles that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We do not seek to remove, we seek to add to.</li> <li>2. We give equal recognition to both the 36<sup>th</sup> (Ulster) and the 16<sup>th</sup> (Irish) Division.</li> </ol> <p>That we, the Lord Mayor and Citizens of the City of Belfast, on the ..... Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, desire again to record our feelings of gratitude to the brave men of the 36<sup>th</sup> (Ulster) Division who, by their glorious conduct in that battle, made an imperishable name for themselves and their Province; the brave men of the 16<sup>th</sup> (Irish) Division, who fought with valour and selfless courage, and Ulstermen who served gallantly in other forces. Their heroism will never be forgotten so long as the British Commonwealth lasts.</p>
1.3	<p>A further new version was tabled, based on previous discussions:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">That we, the Lord Mayor and Citizens of the City of Belfast, on the &gt;th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, desire again to record our feelings of gratitude to the brave men of the 36<sup>th</sup> (Ulster) Division, <b>the 16<sup>th</sup> Irish Division and other forces</b> who, by their glorious conduct in that battle, made an imperishable name for themselves and their <b>people</b>, and whose heroism will never be forgotten.</p>

1.4	The Members were reminded that the representatives of the Somme Heritage Association had specifically requested that this Resolution should not become an issue of division within the Council, out of respect to those who had given their lives in the battle. All Members agreed with this and appreciated that efforts were being made to resolve this issue at Committee level without rancour. Members also agreed that there had been a significant change in attitude on all sides to the Great War in the last few years, which had led to greater understanding and recognition of the contribution of all citizens of Belfast.
1.5	Some Members were of the opinion that the proposed new wording (1.3 above) gave more equal recognition to all those who had sacrificed their lives during the Battle of the Somme. However, a Member was of the view that the impact on the city of the sacrifice of the 36 <sup>th</sup> (Ulster) Division on 1 July had been so great that the current reference to that Division should be retained and not diluted. He felt that, in accordance with the principles as set down by Cllr. Crozier's proposal, the additional reference to the 16 <sup>th</sup> (Irish) Division would give equal recognition to their sacrifice.
1.6	After discussion, Members agreed that other forces should be included in the resolution, but that further discussion would be required as to the exact wording. Members agreed to consult others within their own party groups before making a decision at the next Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, to be ratified at the Council meeting in June. They also agreed that one representative only from each party should speak on the issue.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>NEXT MEETING OF MEMORABILIA WORKING GROUP</b>
2.1	It has been agreed to re-schedule the next meeting of the Memorabilia Working Group to immediately after the Good Relations Partnership meeting i.e. around 2.00 pm on Friday 14 May 2010.